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German Counselor Pauls informed Departmental officer late yesterday that Grewe instructed by Foreign Office to express at high level in Dept FedRep concern over Khrushchev's statement re Berlin at Polish-Soviet Friendship meeting in Moscow. Apparently feeling this unnecessarily alarming in light of available information Grewe instead sent Pauls to inquire at working level.

Departmental officer said that in absence complete text and comments from Embassy Moscow views must necessarily be tentative. However, saw no need for panic and did not believe report of speech as available indicated that immediate action against position in Berlin necessarily contemplated. Western powers must of course take position that they can not recognize any attempt unilaterally to abrogate multilateral obligations. Said we would keep Embassy informed as our thinking developed in light of fuller information.

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HERFER
(ACTING)
(mm)

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